

Summary Friday Sermon 8 April 2022

Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (daba)

- By the grace of Allah, we are passing through the blessed month of Ramadhan. This month is a month of acceptance of prayers. Allah has mentioned extraordinary blessings and special acceptance of prayers in this month because every action of man in this month is for the pleasure of Allah. Even his food and drink are per the commandments of Allah. This is why the Holy Prophet (sa) has said that Allah says that the doors of paradise are opened in this month and doors of hellfire are shut. Satan is chained in this month. Hence, it would be unfortunate on our part if we do not benefit from this immense blessing of Allah.

- Regarding Satan being chained, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) stated that do robbers, adulterers, sinners not act in the month of Ramadhan? Certainly, they continue their acts in this month. If the Satan of every person was chained, why would this be the case? Hence, this is an advice for believers who wish to attain nearness of Allah. Allah has told us that Satan, who is otherwise free to act, Allah has chained him in the month of Ramadhan for such individuals who fast for my sake and try to increase in spirituality. These are such individuals about whom the Promised Messiah (as) has said that they decrease physical sustenance while trying to increase their spiritual sustenance. This is the essence of fasting.

- Furthermore, Allah states that I become the reward for a fasting person. This is an enormous glad tidings which we should try to benefit from. Now that the doors of heaven are opened, we should try to enter from every door. We should not be counted among those people who merely eat Sehr and Iftar but remain deprived of all righteous deeds which are expected of us. Regarding such people, Allah says that He has no need for such people to fast and such fasts will not benefit them. We have received this guidance through the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa).

- Hence, we should try to understand the essence of Ramadhan. The verse I have recited comes in between the verses about Ramadhan in the Holy Quran. It talks about such people who wish to become Ibaad-urRahmaan (servants of God), who wish to free themselves from Satan's grip, and who wish to see their prayers being accepted by Allah. Thus, Allah says that when such people ask you (O Prophet) about me and they ardently seek out every way to find me, tell them not to worry as I am close to them. Thus, to reach Allah, we must truly become his servant.

- The servants of God are those who continuously follow the commandments of God throughout the year, not only in Ramadhan. They fulfil Huquq-Allah (rights of God) and Huququl-Ibad (rights of human beings). They follow the guidance of the Holy Quran. They keep their faith firm. You will then experience acceptance of prayers.

➤ We are fortunate that we have accepted the most perfect follower of the Holy Prophet (sa) and Imam of this age, the Promised Messiah (as). He has taught us the ways of achieving nearness of Allah and acceptance of prayers. On one occasion, the Promised Messiah (as) stated: "The door that Allah has opened for the betterment of His creation is only that of prayers. Whoever enters this door crying and wailing, Allah grants him a mantle of purity and he becomes so influenced by His greatness that he is taken miles away from vain acts." Afterwards, HazratKhalifatulMasih(aba) explained various ways of achieving nearness to Allah and acceptance of prayers.

➤ For example, the Promised Messiah (as) has stated: "Whatever businesses we see in the world, first of all, man must put in effort. When he works hard, Allah also blesses it. Similarly, in spiritual ways of Allah, only such people achieve success who work hard. This is why Allah says: and as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. Hence, one should continuously try as hard work is the key to success.

➤ May Allah enable us to follow these teachings and may Allah make this Ramadhan a source of achieving nearness to Allah for us. May Allah continue to grant progress to Jama'atworldwide. We should also pray for the world that Allah keeps it safe from every kind of destruction. At the end, HazratKhalifatulMasih announced the inauguration of a new website about the 313 Badri companions of the Holy Prophet (sa), www.313companions.org